alternative to hydro-carbon fuels for motor transport is being conducted in the country;

(b) if so, the institutions where such research is being conducted and funds allotted for such research;

(c) the extent of progress achieved till date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Centre for Energy Research, Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC) Science Foundation, Chennai has carried out a research and development project during 1998-2000 on this subject with the support of this Ministry. The total sanctioned outlay for this project was Rs. 19.35 lakhs, out of which the Ministry provided a grant of Rs. 14.35 lakhs to this organization.

(c) and (d) The project was successfully completed. A vehicle powered by fuel cell-battery hybrid system was developed and demonstrated as part of this project. This vehicle has logged more than 2000 kilometres of operation.

Declaring November 1st as General Holiday

4280. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that November 1 st every year is being celebrated as Kannada Rajyothsava Day throughout Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for not declaring November 1st as General Holiday for all Central Government Offices throughout Karnataka in 2X3; and

(c) to facilitate Kannadigas working in Central Government Offices to celebrate this historic occasion, will the Government declare November 1st, 2003 as General Holiday for all Central Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government Administrative Offices observe upto 17 holidays in a year as per the prescribed policy. In view of the ceiling on

the total number of closed holidays, it is not possible to declare 1st November, 2003 as an additional holiday for all Central Government Offices throughout Karnataka.

(c) There is no proposal to declare November 1 st, 2003 as a holiday for Central Government offices.

Corruption at State PSCs

4281. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI.:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a number of instances of various State Public Service Commission bartering Government jobs for fortunes;

(b) if so, what are the number of such cases including the names of State Public Service Commission;

(c) whether Government propose to explore the feasibility of making legislative intervention to stem the rot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently scams in Punjab Public Service Commission and Maharashtra Public Service Commission have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Union Public Service Commission in their Memorandum submitted before the National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution, had *inter-alia,* suggested that the relevant provisions in the Constitution may be amended to ensure that only persons with spotless reputation are appointed as Chairmen and Members of the Commission. The National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution, however, recommended that it did not see any need for change in the existing provisions concerning UPSC or other Public Service Commissions or any enactment. The said Commission has recommended that healthy conventions may be developed.